

# Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

June 2002, Vol. 9 Number 9

Are  
We all  
Trash?

Pg's 26 & 27

**Many**  
*faces*  
**One**  
*community*

**Fun**

Pg's 4, 14, 32

**Identity**

Pg's 8, 16, 44

**Health**

Pg's 10, 12, 30





Hosted By  
Jean Lawson Society & Bev Crest

# PRIDE

## AWARDS & DANCE

2 0 0 2

Saturday June 22  
@ The Arts Barns  
10330-84 Ave


**Door Prizes**

**Western  
Dancing  
Demo**

**7:30 pm Pride Awards  
9:00 pm Pride Dance**

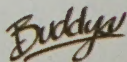
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Orlando Books and Secrets

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**Don't Drink and Drive**



**VUEWEEKLY**





# Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

Vol. 9 Number 9

June 2002

10121-124 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 1P5

www.times10.org

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# Show your Face at Pride Week 2002

Express your freedom, your rights, your creativity, and your sense of community by participating in Edmonton's 2002 Pride Week. Our theme, many faces - one community, expresses how the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community is vibrant and diverse. We all know it takes many different people to make a strong community and many communities to make a vibrant society. Pride Week 2002 is your chance to show your face and to celebrate diversity in the capital region!

There are lots of ways to participate and show your face at Pride Week 2002. Find something that suits you and get out! You can watch the parade, organize a parade contingent, watch the pride awards,

move your body at the pride dance, attend the many community events or volunteer! Take a look at the events calendar printed in this program or visit the web site at [www.prideedmonton.org](http://www.prideedmonton.org) for updates and more information.

The pride committee is extremely proud of the number and type of events community groups are hosting this year. The Mr. Edmonton Leather contest, the community inter-faith service and a family picnic for children and their gay and lesbian relatives are only three examples. It takes a lot of effort by dedicated volunteers to organize a week of celebration and Pride Week 2002 is no exception. The pride committee and its executive want to thank all the volunteers and those that have put aside other priorities to make Pride Week 2002 a success.

The committee also wants to thank



the many businesses supporting our community celebration with financial or in-kind contributions. We are especially happy to have Molson as our national sponsor.

Remember... Pride Week 2002 is your chance to show your face and to celebrate diversity in the capital region!

Roz Ostendorf and Geoff Williams,  
Pride Committee 2002 Co-chairs





**Open  
Daily  
at 12  
Noon**

**Pride Video**

**The Name Says it All**

**10121 - 124 Street**

**Flingss**



# Ready to Bounce!!

Wow. Three months to go. Ida babe, how did we get here so fast? Didn't we just step up? I guess not. We've gone through two of our big annual shows, Investitures last September, and Entertainer of the Year, which we just held. Congratulations go out to Jakyllyn Hyde, Edmonton's voted Entertainer of the Year for 2002-03, and congratulations go out to the 10 candidates on the ballots who gave their all for a fabulous two nights of entertainment.

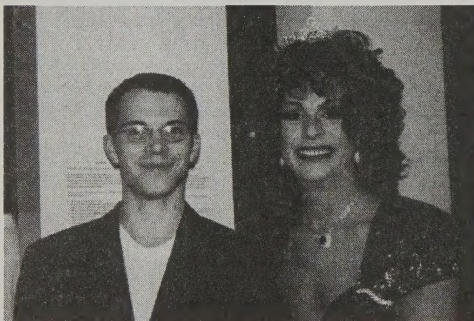
With those shows done, that leaves us with a dozen smaller but just as exciting shows, the Gay Edmonton Pageant coming this Pride Week, and then Campaign and Coronation. For the Gay Edmonton Pageant, the letters and emails have gone out, inviting groups and businesses to submit candidates for the positions of Mr. and Mz. Gay Edmonton XV. Our column last month explained the how and why of what we're doing with this pageant, and now, it's simply a matter of celebrating the accomplishments of Ferrah, Morgan, and Panther's year, and

electing the new representatives of Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community.

And then it's the summer. Which means Campaign. Applications for Emperor and Empress are out now, available online through our website at <http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt> or at various bars and businesses throughout the city. And for you students, applications for the John M. Kerr

amazing year, and doing what everyone involved in the Court is really here for: giving out money to charity. This year, knock on wood (or on our Treasurer's door), we will be presenting our cheques during Coronation. That's really what it's all about, so what better night to do it than one when we're surrounded by our friends and supporters and well-wishers, flocking to the ball from in-town and out-of-town. Bounce baby Bounce!

Next month, we'll be bringing you a column featuring all of our Upper House, as well as some various other VIPs, giving you their reasons for attending Coronation. That's if you need more incentive than a great party that's one of the cheapest Coronations on the



Memorial Scholarships are also available at the same locations. Scholarships will be presented at Coronation, the same night as the results of Campaign 2002 will be revealed.

Coronation. In this very issue of Times.10, Official Magazine to the 26<sup>th</sup> House, you'll find an ad for what we know we will be a great party. It's not just about the stepping down monarchs. Far from it. It is a night of revelry and remembrance, of acknowledgement and gratitude, of Butter Ripple and Bud. Mostly though, it's about concluding an

circuit at only \$15.00/ticket. That's next month. For now, let me leave you with this reminder. In just a couple short weeks, Edmonton's Pride Festival begins. Yes, the court has a couple events during that week, and yes, you of course want to go to those, but this is the one week where you should be out every night, if only for a bit. There are many groups holding many events, each and every one a celebration of Many Faces, One Community. For those of you new to Edmonton's gay scene, and for those of you not-so-new, this is the week to explore, to revel, to enjoy, to be proud. Wherever that road takes you, I'm sure there will a rainbow at the end of it.





# Saturdays at *Buddys* Nite Club

8th

**Grand wet undies**

\$500.00 up for grabs

15th *Pride week kick-off*

*Babylon Bash*

22nd

**Pride party**

And buddys awards

29th

**Grand**

**amateur strip**

\$500.00 cash

**Club go-go  
Saturdays**





# Pride Week 2002 Events Calendar

Updates at [www.prideedmonton.org](http://www.prideedmonton.org)

Saturday June 15

12:30 - 3:30

Pride Family Picnic for Children and  
Their Gay or Lesbian Relatives

Westmount Fitness Centre

12840 - 109 Avenue

8:00 P.M.

2002 Mr. Edmonton Leather Contest

Hosted by Northern Chaps

Arts Barns (10330 - 84 Avenue)

Tickets are \$15.00.

9:00 P.M.

**Decades of Pride Dance**

Celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Womonspace and the 30<sup>th</sup> of  
Edmonton's Gay and Lesbian  
Community Centre.

Alberta Avenue Community  
Centre

9210 - 118 Avenue

Tickets \$12.00 available from

Orlando Books, Pride Video,

Secrets and Woodys and members  
of both hosting groups.

Sunday - June 16

7:00 - P.M.

Praises and Rainbows Service

Lambda Christian Community  
Church

Garneau United Church

11148 - 84 Avenue

Monday June 17

7:00 - P.M.

**Police, Gays and Lesbians**

**Creating One Community - A**

**public forum with members of  
the Police Commission**

City Hall, Heritage Room

Sponsored by Councilor Michael  
Pair

Tuesday June 18

Jell-O Pride Wrestling

Secrets Bar & Grill

10249 - 107 Street

Wednesday June 19

9:00 PM

Ms. Edmonton Leather Beer Bash

Secrets Bar & Grill

10249 - 107 Street

Friday June 21

8:00 P.M.

Celebrate Pride Solstice with stand-

up comic Erin Graham

Orlando Books

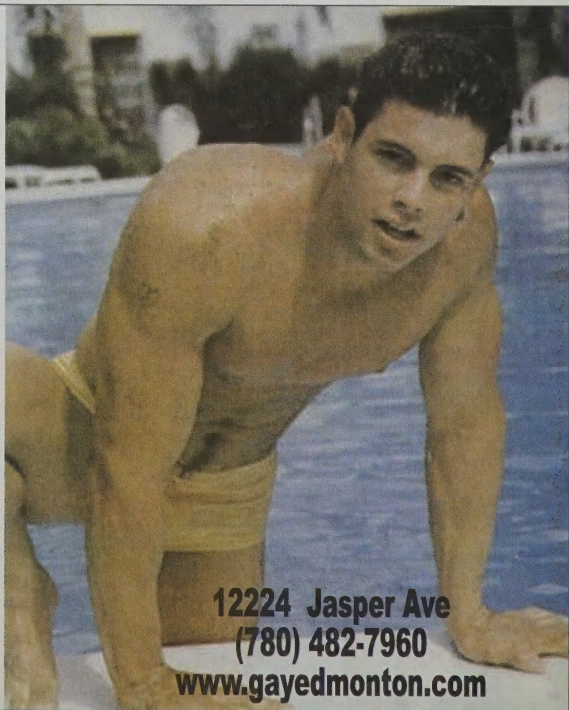
10123 Whyte Avenue

Tickets at the door.



28 Single Rooms  
4 Single TV Rooms  
4 Double TV Rooms  
30 Lockers  
2 Sling Rooms  
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2 XXX Video Lounges  
Glory Hole Booths

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Edmonton Gay Pride 2002**



**12224 Jasper Ave  
(780) 482-7960**

**[www.gayedmonton.com](http://www.gayedmonton.com)**



Friday June 21

7:00 P.M.

**Mr. And Mz. Gay Pageant**

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild

Boots – the Blue Room

10242-106 Street,

Tickets are \$5.00 at the door

Saturday, June 22

**12 NOON**

**Many Faces – One Community  
Pride Parade**

Starts at 111 Street and Jasper  
avenue, continues on Jasper Avenue  
and turns North on 119 Street to the  
Oliver Arena (10335 119 Street)

After Parade Entertainment and  
Community Fair

Oliver Arena

10335 119 Street

7:30 P.M.

**Edmonton Pride Awards**

The Edmonton Pride Awards  
recognize specific individual or  
group contributions to our  
community.

Arts Barns (10330 - 84 Avenue)

Tickets at the door.

9:00 P.M.

**Many Faces – One Community  
Pride Dance**

Hosted by the Jean Lawson  
Society

Arts Barns

10330 - 84 Avenue

Tickets are \$10.00 advance and  
\$12.00 at the door.

Tickets available at Orlando  
Books, Pride Video, Buddys, The  
Roost, Secrets and Conrad's  
Sugar Bowl.

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Freedom of  
Thought**

**Times .10  
Magazine**

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**Pride Week Special**

Hot Wings only 10 cents each between 3 and 5pm

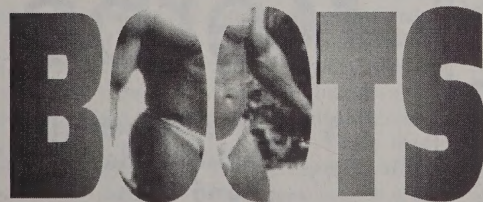
Valid only from Sunday June 16 thru Thursday June 20, 2002

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Boots is a private club - Membership required

**The Blue Room**

**PRIDE  
AT BOOTS**

**June 08 - Mr. Boots Pre-Pride Rally** Come and support Mike for Mr. Edmonton Leather

**June 21 - Gay Edmonton Pageant starting at 7PM** A Gay Pride Week Event

**BOOTS**  
10242-106ST 423-5014





# Adult Inter-dependent Relationships Act

By Laurie Blakeman – Liberal MLA

As the Legislative session comes to a close and we look to celebrate Pride Days in June, I want to talk about two bills of importance to the gay and lesbian community. The first is the **Intestate Succession Amendment Act**, which has now become law in Alberta. This amendment was put into place not because of government largesse, but because the old Act had been challenged in the courts by our own Julie Lloyd in the Sands case, and the Klein government was ordered to fix the legislation in the Assembly pronto.

This Act defines an adult interdependent partner as

1. A person, including a minor, who lived with the intestate in a conjugal relationship, outside marriage, for a continuous period of not less than 3 years immediately before the

intestate's death;

2. A person who is in a relationship of some permanence immediately before the intestate's death, if there is a child of the relationship by birth or adoption.

What this Bill is trying to do is recognize that there's a relationship in place that should be treated the same as if there was a spouse. So what it's saying is that if an intestate dies leaving no surviving spouse but leaving a surviving adult interdependent partner, the surviving adult interdependent partner shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as if he or she were the surviving spouse of the intestate and therefore inherits part or all of the estate. This amendment act is just a 'patch' in place until the larger and more comprehensive Bill 30 passes.

Second the provincial government is seeking your input into **Bill 30, the Adult Interdependent Relationships Act**. This bill has been introduced for first reading but will sit on the Order Paper until the Fall Sitting, so you have time to respond. Under Bill 30, a same-sex relationship is recognized if it

1. Is of some permanence and has lasted for three years;
2. Is of some permanence and there is a child in the relationship;
3. Or if there is a written agreement that has been put in place outlining the relationship.

This bill is by no means the end of the road in the quest for equality for same sex couples - mostly because this new definition applies to only nine Acts! And those Acts apply mostly to those around dead people! The Acts are *Administration of Estates; Dependents Relief Act; Change of Name; Domestic Relations; Fatal Accidents; Intestate Succession; Personal Directives; Public Trustee and the Wills Act*. We need this definition to apply to a total of about 55 Acts which offer remedies or benefits under the law to persons in domestic relationships not just these nine.

You will have heard some controversy as the definition in Bill 30, *The Adult Interdependent Relationships Act* is a very wide definition and could include such non-conjugal but still domestic relationships as spinster aunts or an elderly mother and her adult son. Some people think that the Act might pass more easily if it is not so obvious

that this is to include same sex couples under the law (this is still Alberta folks!). Others think this will work against the Act as it can create situations where people are forced to be included who shouldn't be - like college roommates. I'll admit that I don't have strong feelings either way, I'm just looking to get the definition passed which brings equality to same sex couples under the law in Alberta.

So we can all celebrate the work started so many years ago by people within the community - gay and straight - who were trying to ensure recognition, protection, and legal remedies for same-sex couples and for individuals. The road to get here took us past the Supreme Court ruling on Delwin Vriend's case to include sexual orientation under the *Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act*, and now pauses at Bill 30 to include legal remedies and benefits for same-sex couples in those situations described in the nine Acts. It is possible and even likely that more Acts could be included in the fall by bringing in an amendment to add other pieces of legislation to the list.

So celebrate and then get back to work. Bill 30 may be just a start in recognising same sex relationships under Alberta law but I do need some

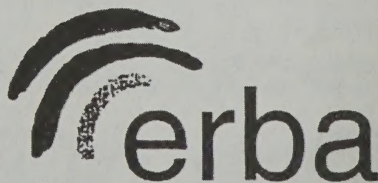
help. I need letters or emails that I can table in the Legislature during the Fall Sitting. I would also recommend that you mobilize all of your relatives and friends in rural Alberta, other constituencies in Edmonton, and in Calgary. Get them on the phone or writing to their local MLA to say they want Bill 30 passed. (Make sure that they cc me a copy of any letters they send so I can table those as well). This is a numbers game folks, so make your numbers count!

In closing I'll say again that this is a step forward in gay and lesbian equality and just in time to celebrate for Gay Pride Week! Well done and thanks.

Laurie Blakeman MLA

If you would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live.

Laurie Blakeman MLA  
Edmonton-Centre  
Contact me by email  
[blakeman@oanet.com](mailto:blakeman@oanet.com)  
or visit the office at #3, 9908-109 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 1H5  
Phone 414-0743, Fax 414-0772  
[www.laurieblakeman.com](http://www.laurieblakeman.com)



**A la Carte Brunch will  
be held Sunday,  
June 16th**

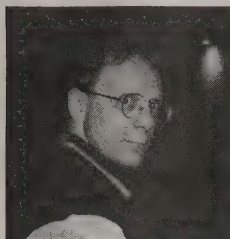
**Place Woodys Pub  
11725 - Jasper Avenue  
Time: 12 Noon**

**Bring business cards  
Meet new people  
RSVP Bill Faulkner**



# Commentary

*By Dennis Cambly  
Managing Editor*



## What Freedoms?

June is usually the month where most gay and lesbian communities around the world celebrate. In order to know what all the celebration is about you might need a bit of a history lesson. You can find most of that on our Website if you do a search for "pride meaning". It is really in a capsule comment a time when people can celebrate their own lives and the way that many are dealt with in everyday living. It is about a continual struggle for a few basic rights that some have come to call liberties. Is there some way that everyone can be treated with the same amount of equality? Would it not be nice?

You can get a good picture of what many other communities have gone through decades ago by

looking at Alberta. Here, in Alberta, time travel is possible. Picture yourself twenty years ago when most major cities were holding a week of celebration with a colourful parade. Then, with your eyes wide open, look at what we are doing here in Alberta. We see a government that walks a long way around giving even the slightest recognition to a large group in the Province. We look with great shame at a government that needed to be told by the Supreme Court of Canada to allow gays and lesbians some basic rights. This same government then amends some laws so that two sisters living together can be equal under the law. What is that you say? You got it people you now have a made in Alberta version of equality. I will leave it to Laurie Blakeman to help you understand this law along with a well-spoken article from Brian Mason. Brian's "article" is directly from the Alberta Hansard and is word for word what he said in the Legislature. Please read them as they could affect you at some point in your life.

As a people that live in a land that considers itself free we must take a look at what freedom means to Canadians. The saying that we are "free" to pay taxes is not correct. We are not free to pay them we must pay them and the freedom that we should have is taken

away. That freedom is in the way the money is spent. At all levels of government is the money is spent like a child going into a candy store for the first time. No thought about how much is in the bank because the governments can always go back and get more. At some point along the way though, the bank, (the people) have no more to give. We cut our spending because what is left after working for a month is not enough to meet our own expenses. If only the government behaved the same way! I heard recently that the Edmonton City Councilors had over ten million dollars left after all the spending. Did they give it back since they took too much? Not in this lifetime. When Epcor lost millions of dollars did any of the management lose their jobs because they did such a horrific job? Not in this lifetime. The money they lost was simply added to our power bills and that is called freedom?

If we as a community did not hold our week of celebration would it make a difference? Yes it would because it would be giving up one last freedom. That freedom is the freedom to assemble, even though the

City of Edmonton added almost \$1500.00 in taxes onto that freedom.

You can have your phone tapped by the police without reason, people can be held for months without legal assistance, up to 10,000 police and army can assemble for the G8 meeting, you must register your gun (criminals exempted), you can browse the Internet and be tracked without permission, if your Website has the world gay on it, it can be blocked, you must file income tax or you will be fined, do not park downtown because the City will have your car fined and towed away and last but not the least, smile, because the City of Edmonton now has more cameras per capita than any other city in North America watching you. Hell, your car can be fined, even if you are not driving it.

Go ahead and give up your freedom by not participating in the Pride Week festivities. And for your own sake stay at home instead of being a part of, or watching the Parade.

If you want to bring Alberta in line with the rest of the world show up and let the current opponents in power know that you are here.

**Be a Part of the World**  
**www.times10.org**



# Speech by Brian Mason on Bill 29

Date: Monday, May  
13, 2002

MR. MASON: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman. It's my pleasure to speak to Bill 29, a bill which has been a long time coming before this Legislature. Yesterday during second reading of Bill 29 the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre deliberated on whether or not the minister should be congratulated for this piece of legislation. On the one hand, as the member observed, the minister has been forced to make these changes because of a court decision just over a year ago. On the other hand, this government has a track record of forcing gay and lesbian Albertans to challenge unjust laws in courts and before the Human Rights Commission. In the end the hon. member decided that congratulations were in order if only because the minister has not chosen to drag Albertans before the Supreme Court once again in a futile attempt to save patently unfair legislation.

The New Democrats, however, Mr. Chairman, cannot be so generous. It is not enough that the Minister of Justice is finally amending one piece of

legislation more than a year after being told to do so by the Court of Queen's Bench. In her comments yesterday the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre gave a fairly detailed account of the court battle that led to the decision regarding the Intestate Succession Act, so I won't say too much more on the subject other than to congratulate and thank Brent Johnson and his lawyer, Julie Lloyd, for their dedication and hard work in this fight. There is of course an entire community of Albertans who are involved in this struggle, but in this case Mr. Johnson and Ms Lloyd deserve special recognition.

The reality of why we are currently amending the Intestate Succession Act goes further than last year's Court of Queen's Bench decision. In fact, the



roots can be traced to the Supreme Court's decision in 1998 that sexual orientation should be read into Alberta's human rights legislation as protected grounds and the Supreme Court's May 1999 decision that same-sex couples deserve the same rights and obligations as their heterosexual counterparts. So re-

ally we have Bill 29 before us today because the Tories have finally understood what the rest of Canada has known for years. It is no more acceptable to treat people badly, to exclude and marginalize them because of their sexual orientation than it would be acceptable to marginalize them because of their race or age or religious affiliation or level of income.

The strategy of this government regarding the obligations to gays and lesbians in Alberta has been to delay, delay, and further delay again. The government fought Delwin Vriend all the way to the Supreme Court, delaying the inevitable and necessary inclusion of sexual orientation in our human rights legislation. The government fought Brent Johnson in a spiteful attempt to exclude him from the protections guaranteed by the Intestate Succession Act. Let's be clear. While the government delays, real people lose out economically, socially, and emotionally. Real people, Mr. Chairman, suffer real discrimination.

Let's be clear on another point. While this government has stalled, delayed, and retreated, eight other jurisdictions, led by New Democrat governments in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Manitoba, have passed omnibus legislation to update their statutes and promote equality for their citizens. In Ontario alone over 60 pieces of legislation were amended and have been amended for nearly two years.

In Alberta two years after the M versus H decision and four years after the Vriend deci-

sion, what do we have? On the one hand, we have Bill 29, which is a patch. We have legislation that does the bare minimum to protect the Intestate Succession Act. On the other hand, we have a complex and unwieldy piece of legislative quicksand, that is bound to create more problems than it solves.

It's not my intention to debate Bill 30 here, but given that the minister intends to replace the patch we're currently debating with the provisions of Bill 30, I would like to raise some initial concerns. The first concern is that it's not a good way to approach legislation. The approach of the government in bringing forward Bill 29 and Bill 30 is an attempt to pretend that gays and lesbians don't exist in this province. It is an attempt to tell Alberta social conservatives: "Don't worry. This bill isn't really about recognizing the love and commitment in same-sex relationships. It's about creating economic contracts between two Albertans, preferably severely normal Albertans." In their attempt to placate one group of Albertans at the expense of another, the government has raised a whole new set of concerns. What if three sisters, for example, move in together and would like to form an interdependent partnership? Which two would be included and which one would be excluded? What would happen to the third person?

By creating the fiction of interdependent relationships, Mr. Chairman, we have opened a whole can of worms, that I think is going to create problems for the government and for the legislation. Do we expect that conflict of interest laws should be the same for spouses as they will be for in-



terdependent partners? Bill 30, the companion to Bill 29, will produce a raft of unintended and unanticipated results. This is particularly ironic given the very simple results that the government should have been targeting. First of all, amend the 80 pieces of legislation that discriminate against same-sex couples. Second, give clear recognition of the validity of same-sex relationships.

It comes down, Mr. Chairman, to a question of political will and timing. This is a government that passed the very harsh and contentious Bill 12 in a matter of days and a government that uses closure more than any other in this country. They clearly have no problem getting legislation passed when they want it. So we are left asking why it has taken four years to bring the smallest amount of rights to gay and

lesbian Albertans when it took only four days to restrict the rights of teachers in Bill 12. Given this government's track record on issues of civil liberties, open debate, and inclusive democracy, perhaps it is not such a mystery. It's no wonder that a recent national poll showed that Canadians by a very wide margin, including Albertans, trust the courts more than Legislatures and governments to protect civil rights of Canadians. It's no wonder, and one of the main reasons is this government itself.

The New Democrats will support this legislation, Mr. Chairman, but we will not congratulate the government for doing now what it should have done years ago.

*(editor's note: we printed this as spoken at a point in the debate where the Tories could not even say the words gay or lesbian, go ahead and check the Hansard, such cowards)*

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**SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY**

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terrible  
**TERRANCE**  
**7PM TILL 12**



# Book Review – Cumberland

By Daniel Inman

Michael V. Smith, Author, recognized first for his poetry, which won several national competitions, grew up in the border town of Cornwall, Ontario. Smith who now resides in Vancouver, BC, has seen three of his plays produced in Toronto, has shot a number of videos and has acted in two of Wayne Yung's films, wildflowers and



Chopsticks, Bloody  
Chopsticks.

A first for Smith, Cumberland takes you to a small town between Ottawa and Montreal, where the lives of Earnest, a mill worker who's job is lost when the mill closes, Bea, a waitress at a local pub who likes

Earnest, Amanda, a Seventeen year old, torn away from her family by rebellion, now living with Bea who is infatuated by Nick, a recent widowed father and his son Aaron, a boy going through what most all

boys do at that awkward age in life. This novel will take you into a modern time of feelings, fears and the thoughts of loneliness, a memorable and emotionally

satisfying novel.

## The Greatest Taboo

Homosexuality in Black Communities

The winners were announced at a celebrity packed gala event at the Tribeca Rooftop in New York City. Margaret Cho was also honoured with the Lambda Literary Foundation's Bridge Builder Award. Performance poet Emanuel Xavier presided as emcee. The publication of Delroy Constantine-Simms' eye-opening take on the relationship between black gay men and lesbians and others of their race. Does homosexuality remain the greatest taboo in black culture? Delroy Constantine-Simms has compiled 28 powerful, provocative essays

from academics and writers of all ethnic heritages, to explore the often volatile relationship between black gay men and lesbians and others of their race.

The sweeping scope of *The Greatest Taboo* runs from 19th-century slave quarters to post-apartheid South Africa, from RuPaul to the Wu Tang Clan, from 1920s Harlem to 1995's Million Man March on Washington, providing a clear-eyed societal, cultural, political, and historical view of both the transformation and continued repression of black lesbians and gay men. Academically rigorous yet intellectually accessible, *The Greatest Taboo* seeks to stimulate a lively discourse and foster greater understanding of this internationally important, vastly misunderstood, and fascinating topic.

## Back to the Classic's Barbecue

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**\$3.00 Highballs**  
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you'll regret the  
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do more than the  
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# Who Am I?

What Am I About?

I came here from B.C. in 1981, for a holiday. Well, it has been a long and exciting time discovering myself. Lying to my family, and myself I dated a girl - at first. But as Annie Lennox sings - I NEED A MAN.

About a year later, I met my 1<sup>st</sup> Love. Him and I had fun, but we were still hiding our sexuality from our families. I remember him fondly and also thank him. Yes, I would

soon discover the Gay scene, learning about Drag Queens - Popper Queens - Nellieboys and Headgames. This once naïve boy would soon learn that Gay life would seem harder than



Heterosexual life. I would also have to come out to my family if I wanted to be who I was. I'm lucky that they knew before me.

I still remember Boots & Saddle (now the Blue Room) as the first bar. Later I would

find Flashbacks and The Roost. It would be then that I would find out about drag.

Well, that is who I am. Now, what am I about?

Besides being a drag queen, I love performing and making people smile. I got introduced to the I.S.C.W.R and learned of the fundraising they do. Later, I would also get involved with the Roost's Kids Christmas party. This is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Dec. Also I am very pleased to be involved with the Roost's annual Aids Benefit held every Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

After being involved over 10 years and seeing many sick (H.I.V or other illnesses) I decided to try my own fundraisers. It is a lot of work getting companies to

sponsor and to also get volunteers. I thank all that have helped so far. I am doing shows for a different charity the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. This so far has proved to be very good with different theme shows each month.

Watch for LIVE PRIDE - June 20<sup>th</sup>

In closing I leave you with these words:

The reward we get  
Helping others in need  
Is the pleasure of seeing a smile

Where once was a frown.  
The lifting of fallen spirits  
Up off the ground.

The reward we get is  
Knowing we could help.  
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# Black Solstice

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**Tickets \$15 (Non-Chaps members) \$10 (Chaps members) at:**

- Buddy's Nite Club 11725B-Jasper Ave (Saturday Nights 10pm - Midnight)
- Pride Video 10121-124 St
- B&D Emporium 9852-Jasper Ave
- Sugar Bowl & Illusion Computer Service 10724-124 St
- Also Join us for the Meet-The-Meat at Buddy's on June 14th and the Survivor Brunch at the Sugar Bowl on June 16th



**Black Solstice**





# Recognized Community Builders

## Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 462-8896.

## Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail [showrsh@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:showrsh@compusmart.ab.ca).

## Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

## Arctic FrontRunners

We are a group of gay and lesbian runners that meets on Sunday mornings for a run on the river valley trail system. We are a recreational group and runners of all speeds are welcome. The length of our runs varies from about 7 to 10 km. We yak, laugh, and socialize during the runs and often go for brunch together

afterward. During the spring, summer, and fall, we meet beneath the electronic sign at 87 Ave and 114 St on the University campus at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Bill at 436-7892.

## AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet.

## The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month 9:00 p. m. - 11:00 p.m. at Buddys Night Club. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

## Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Heather at 987-4974. email address [jonrach@msn.com](mailto:jonrach@msn.com)

## Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-

4218

## Classics

A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

## Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact, Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: [pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca).

## Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or by e-mail at [edmontonpt@times10.org](mailto:edmontonpt@times10.org), or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

## Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA):

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

## Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: [evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca), on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/>, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

## Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. 1) C-Recreation - contact Rick at 474-6785; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Rick at 474-6785; 3) B-Intermediate - contact Darcy at 425-7316; Email: [volleyball@queerseek.com](mailto:volleyball@queerseek.com) Website: FTB Volleyball



<http://www.queerseek.com/freetobe/>

### **Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.**

At 7:30 p.m. Cafe on Whyte at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. E-mail Jared at [rainbowboy2000@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowboy2000@hotmail.com). Or call Carl after 6 P.M. at 908-3559

### **Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC)**

GMOC is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on GMOC workshops and other activities, please call (780) 488-0564

### **HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)**

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by

HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at [mail@hivedmonton.com](mailto:mail@hivedmonton.com). Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>

### **Illusions Social Club**

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club, Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

### **Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose**

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: [wildrosecourt@yahoo.com](mailto:wildrosecourt@yahoo.com). Visit our Website at: Wild Rose Court <http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/>

### **ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education**

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at

[icare@oanet.com](mailto:icare@oanet.com)

### **Lambda Christian Community Church**

We are a non-denominational Christian church. Providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at [lambdachurch@shaw.ca](mailto:lambdachurch@shaw.ca)

### **Liatri Society**

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information, contact [liatrisociety@hotmail.com](mailto:liatrisociety@hotmail.com) or John at 434-5717.

### **Living Positive**

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: [livepos@telusplanet.net](mailto:livepos@telusplanet.net).

### **Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton**

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people.

Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: [lylemillang@powersurfr.com](mailto:lylemillang@powersurfr.com)

### **Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)**

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters GLBT club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: [http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves\\_edm/home.htm](http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm). 2. E-mail: [makingwaves\\_edm@yahoo.com](mailto:makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com) 3. Phone: Warren 780-718-7598. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

### **NLA Edmonton**

The National Leather Association is the largest and most active pansexual organization in the world. It serves the Leather, SM, Fetish communities. We are an all inclusive organization made up of fun-loving, caring, educated and focused people. Join us at our meetings held upstairs



at The Roost, 10345-104 Street every 3rd Thursday of the month.

### **Northern Chaps**

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Buddy's Nite Club the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: [Northernchaps@telusplanet.net](mailto:Northernchaps@telusplanet.net)

### **Northern Lights Square Dance Club**

We are part of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. Everyone is invited to participate in this non-discriminatory, supportive, fun and stimulating square dance club. Singles and couples are welcome. No special clothing is needed. Comfortable shoes are recommended. We meet every Wednesday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. from September to June. Contact Denis at 780-922-4355, or e-mail: [bflorapro@aol.com](mailto:bflorapro@aol.com), for location of dances.

### **Northern Titans**

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, September to April, at Gateway Bowling Centre. For more information, please visit the WebPages at: <http://www.geocities.com/northernTitans/>

### **Open Door Club**

Grant MacEwan College group. Anyone is welcome, including students, college employees, people from the area, perspective students, alumni or people who are interested in meeting other people. Our WebPages are at: <http://www.geocities.com/opendoorclub/> or E-mail us at: [opendoorclub@hotmail.com](mailto:opendoorclub@hotmail.com)

### **Out at the Symphony**

A unique social event for gay men. Meet other music lovers on Saturday evenings for concerts of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Masters mini-series 1. Enjoy special guest speakers, reserved cafe tables at intermission and post-show fun. Contact Paul at 401-2512 for more information.

### **Outdoors Club**

Have you an interest in backcountry hiking/camping? If so, the Outdoors Club is for you. Our purpose is to get people together for hiking/camping trips, primarily within the Rockies and surrounding area. The activities of this group will be member focused and member initiated. Individuals at all skill levels are welcome to participate. For information, please contact us at 780-430-0759 or e-mail: [glb\\_outdoors@hotmail.com](mailto:glb_outdoors@hotmail.com) or visit our WebPages at [http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~bdick/glb\\_outdoors](http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~bdick/glb_outdoors)

### **OUTreach**

OUTreach is a university-based organization for

gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the second cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail:

[outreach@ualberta.ca](mailto:outreach@ualberta.ca). They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A <http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach>

### **Team Edmonton**

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

### **Yours Mine Ours and Us**

Parenting support group for glbt parents, partners. Meets the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 - 9 p.m. Small donations for room costs. Issues of parenting, sharing skills, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at 415-5434 for more information. This is peer support, not a therapy group, nor a dating service. WebPages at: Yours Mine Ours Us [http://www.geocities.com/ymou\\_1999/](http://www.geocities.com/ymou_1999/)

### **Youth Understanding Youth**

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the gay and lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail:

[yuyedm@hotmail.com](mailto:yuyedm@hotmail.com). Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth <http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/>

### **Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton**

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

### **Womyn's Volleyball League**

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association has initiated a womyn's only league for the first time this year. The season runs until May 28 and new members are welcome at any point. A drop-in fee of \$5 or a registration fee of \$35 is in effect. Monday nights 7 - 9 p.m. at Highlands Jr. High School (11509 - 62 St. - please use entrance off parking lot. For more information, please contact: Pam at 459-9370 [p\\_mcewin@hotmail.com](mailto:p_mcewin@hotmail.com) or Jenn at 424-5100 [grnwolf@hotmail.com](mailto:grnwolf@hotmail.com)

### **Womonspace**

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Womonspace <http://www.gaycanada.com/>



womonspace/

### Regional Organizations

#### Freedom Fort McMurray

A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiring into membership, please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member, call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

#### Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492,

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: [gpgayorg@hotmail.com](mailto:gpgayorg@hotmail.com)

#### Northern Rainbow Youth

A support group for High School students. Our email address is [nry13\\_18@hotmail.com](mailto:nry13_18@hotmail.com). Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counselor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

#### Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm> E-mail: [out\\_north99@hotmail.com](mailto:out_north99@hotmail.com)

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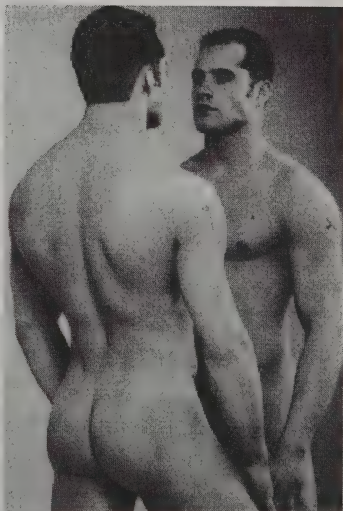
# Grant Olson Photo Exhibit

**June 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23 & 28**

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**Runs Through Gay Pride  
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# A View from the Top

By Sir Scott

A local long-term player in the BDSM community writes this month's article. The Leather community and the BDSM community are somewhat linked in many ways, but have a different ethos and history. This article provides a unique insight into the BDSM community and shares many parallels with the Leather community.

# A View from Under the Top

By Karen K.

A recent kafiuffle in my local BDSM community caused me to pause and give thought to some of the rituals we use in BDSM. The incident in my community involved the process of collaring.

Collaring has long been considered a very intimate and somewhat binding ritual. It is something that is carried


out between two consenting partners. In the BDSM community this is the closest one can get to being married.

Lately, however collaring has begun to reach comic proportions.

I have been involved in my BDSM community for about 12 years. I started out on the fringes and gradually worked my way up the BDSM ladder, to playing with the big boys and girls. Through out all of this I have watched men and women casually collaring and being collared by people in the community without really understanding what "collaring" truly is or really means.


Go online to any BDSM IRC channel and you will find a bevy of submissives wearing a set of bracketed initials behind their online nick. This means what...that this person is owned...exclusive...the property of so & so? Well actually it means...absolutely nothing...nada...zilch! Without the ritual, commitment and in some cases the contracts, behind them, all it means is that someone out there is trying to be someone in private that they cannot be in public.

Collaring requires thought! Thought on the part of the sub/bottom, that he/she wants to belong exclusively



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to this Dom/me/Top. Thought, on the part of the Dom/me/Top that they wish to be exclusive to this person they have chosen to be sub/bottom. And yes exclusivity is a two way street. The other expects what is expected of one. I know in some cases, that through negotiations and contracts, exclusivity is something that is discussed between the parties and as long as both parties agree, the Dom/me/Top may be free to explore where he/she may chose. As long as the parties agree and fully understand what is being negotiated!

There are many types of collars and if people really

want to know what they are and what they mean they should do the necessary research that is required of them. Understanding what they are getting involved in and what the possible ramifications of their actions may be, would go a long way to getting the recognition they are looking for within their community. And that's the bottom line in the long run isn't it. What people are striving for is some sort of recognition in their community, because recognition is supposed to equate to respect. Unfortunately what ends up happening is people looking like fools and pulling down the reputation of their local community along with them.

What I see happening in the community is actually rather frightening. I see a lot of people who suddenly want to be a part of BDSM just because it's the "in" thing to be part of. These people bring with them their ignorance in the ritual of BDSM and turn it into a contest of who can get the most with the least amount of effort.

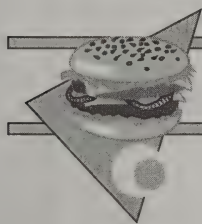
If we are supposed to be our own policing unit and sort out those who are and those who want to be for the moment, why aren't we doing that?

(I want to thank Karen K. for providing this insight into the BDSM community. Northern Chaps will present

the second annual Mr. Edmonton Leather Contest. The Quest begins June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 8:00 pm at the Old Strathcona Bus Barns. Tickets are \$15.00 (\$10.00 for Chaps members) and are available at Buddy's Nite Club, Pride Video, Conrad's Sugar Bowl and Illusion Computer Service. Tickets are also available from Northern Chaps executive during weekends at the Roost and Buddy's.

Please join us for what has proven to be a major event on the Edmonton Pride calendar.

In Leather Pride  
Sir Scott



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# Hi There..

Within the Leather/bdsm lifestyle the words honour and respect are often mentioned. Merriam-Webster defines honour as 1: good name; Reputation; also: outward respect; 2: Privilege; 3: a person of superior standing - used esp. as a title; 4: one whose worth brings respect or fame; 5: an evidence or symbol of distinction 6: Chastity, purity 7: integrity. Note that the word "respect" is used twice in the definition of honour: "outward respect" and "one whose worth brings respect".

So how does this apply to the Leather/bdsm lifestyle? It's not enough to give yourself a title, to call yourself Master or Mistress. Respect must be earned. The Top or Dominant must earn the respect from the bottom or submissive and of course from other Tops. It begins with respect for oneself and then respecting others. It means being true to oneself. It's very like any other part of society. For instance, a CEO of a major company, or yes, even a politician like our Mayor, has earned the respect of others, not because they assumed the title, but because of their actions. They may or may not be liked, but they are respected for who they are and what they do.

Within the leather community, having earned Respect is often shown in a visual way such as the Master's cap which only a few are entitled to wear. Addressing someone as Sir, such as Sir Scott or Sir Michael, both who frequently write in this magazine, is a formal acknowledgement of the respect they have earned. (Strange really, when I was a child it was only proper to refer to

elders as Sir or Ma'am and young gentleman and women were referred to as Master and Miss. hmmm.) They most important thing to remember is, once again, the emphasis on the "earn" part. Both the gentlemen mentioned above have earned their titles again and again. They have given repeatedly to the community and have always respected others. But above all else they respect themselves. That is where it all starts. One can only gain respect once one respects oneself. There are many other men and women who have earned my respect and some who have lost it due to their actions.

I hope to earn the respect of this community by my actions as Ms Edmonton Leather. I will be out there promoting the Leather lifestyle. I will be out there supporting other groups such as the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose and Northern Chaps. And I will be out there hosting fund-raisers for charity. One of these will be the Ms. Edmonton Leather Fetish Beer Bash to be held at Secrets on June 19<sup>th</sup>. It's part of the festivities planned for Pride Week. There are many other fun events happening during Pride Week this year that I hope you will all try to partake in. This is your week. Show your pride. For a complete list of what's happening please check out [www.prideedmonton.org](http://www.prideedmonton.org).

One last thing I want to mention is the Ms Calgary Leather competition held in Calgary at the Eagle on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. I was asked to attend as a judge. It was a fun event with a great turnout. Congratulations to Russ for winning the title.

Marla

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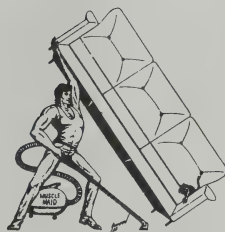
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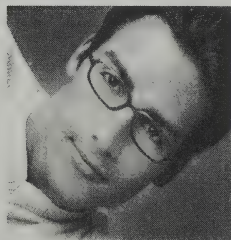


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## Are We All Trash?

If I were a red-blooded, straight man, I'd say to hell with Gay Rights and Fag Liberation. Despite braggadocio, the majority of straight studs nurse chronic blue balls. From a gay point of view it takes a ridiculous amount of effort for straights to get themselves laid. All fags need to do is say Hello with the right inflection and it's sex on the half-shell! If I were straight I would resent that. It would seem to me too unfairly easy. Gays think nothing of balling a new trick every night; no hang-ups, no hassle. Try that in the straight world and they'd think you some kind of sex maniac. But

in fairyland we have an underground network, places where you can go at all hours of the day and night to get serviced, free - parks, dunes, rest-areas, you name it. No one need be horny for half an hour. We publish guidebooks, so even the most benighted traveller can beat feet to the nearest steam room or glory hole. How come there's no straight meat rack where a dude can go to get his rocks off? But why should there be so many sexual service stations only for faggots? How come we've got it so free and easy, while straights are stuck with what's left of a thousand years' accumulation of customs, conventions, rituals and taboos? If I were straight and had to operate under the straight system, I'd be damned if homosexuals, already on the loose, would be given any further sanction. Well, at least not until straight sex was easier to

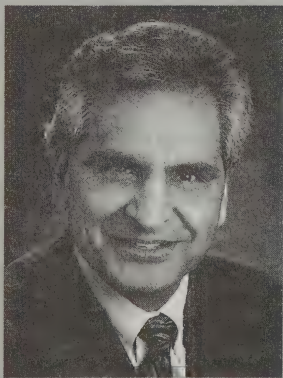
come by.

At a conservative estimate, gays make out at least twice as often and easily as straights do. But then gays also spend more time at it. A great deal. Like, almost their entire waking existence. Why this preoccupation with sex, amounting almost to an obsession? The official straight explanation is that, for obvious anatomical reasons, sex between two men can never be a satisfactory (i.e., normal) sex act. This being so, queers are constantly trying one another on like pairs of sneakers, hoping for a perfect fit when, unbeknownst to them, the choice consists of nothing but left feet.

It therefore isn't surprising that they can't and don't. What at first glance seems like an open-season sexual free-for-all, on looking closer is seen as the sad and

useless spinning of wheels it really is. There's no use denying that gays do persist in thinking that the next hump down the pike must somehow be an improvement on the current number. The grass is always greener. Novelty is at a premium. The stranger carries a mystery in his pants that can't be allowed to remain a mystery for long. Then it's on to the next one. Every eye in the bar turns to seas the new entrant. Even lovers break off tête-à-têtes to check out the newcomer. In a straight bar every head doesn't turn each time the door opens. In the first place, mother teaches that it's rude to stare and, in the second, people are entitled to the courtesy due them as people and shouldn't be appraised like so much hamburger on the hoof. This objectification is an outstanding characteristic

## Happy Pride Week



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of homosexual attitudes. In the same way that most of gay life's values and priorities are upside down, so many of its practices are back to front. In straight life, sex is the culmination of some, usually extended, form of courtship. Little by little, a couple has unveiled something of one another's psyche before they start taking their clothes off. Dropping the final vestige of reserve is the culmination of degrees of intimacy. A bond, however tenuous, of mutual humanity has been established that goes beyond mere sexuality. Not so with gays. Sex takes place, with the minimum of preliminaries, between virtual, often (and often, preferably) name-less, strangers.

Gays cruise each other as objects and they fuck as objects and they part as objects. They put the cart

before the horse on the principle of Fuck first and ask questions afterward. Their rationalization is that if it's not a success in the sack, what's the point in pursuing it? The result, of course, is that relationships are entered into on the basis of compatibility sack-wise. It therefore comes as a dismaying surprise when, inevitably, sexual fascination wears off and they find themselves left with little or nothing else in common - the fate of 90% of homosexual liaisons. Another fatal flaw in the homosexual mentality is the need always to keep their options open. No such thing as a total commitment appears to be possible. Perhaps it's quaint and old-fashioned to talk of fidelity, even in a heterosexual context, these days, but it certainly never has figured in the gay vocabulary. Yet it isn't an arbitrary concept

imposed capriciously by a spoilsport society, as those who want-their-cake-and-eat-it would have us suppose. An opportunity of tricking, it would seem, can never be passed up by any member of the gay persuasion. "Forsaking all others" was never part of the contract. Not that there is a contract.

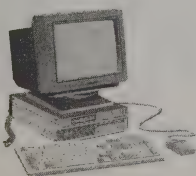
Gay couples have to make it in the teeth of two kinds of adversity. In the first place, straight society has a hard time swallowing what appears to be a happy, queer ménage. A single homosexual can be assimilated without too much effort by pretending he's simply another bachelor, but there's no straight protocol to cope with a gay couple. Secondly, the gay community itself doesn't respond too kindly if two desirable members take

themselves out of circulation. It envies them their apparent self-sufficiency and their (temporary) withdrawal from the sexual rat race - and it does its little best to try and bust them up. The partners, meanwhile, starting out with not much more to go on than successful sex, are not only daily discovering traits and qualities in one another that may or may not be compatible but, at the same time, are trying to work out a modus operandi that has no pattern or precedent. Usually the only domestic example they have to fall back on or try to approximate is that of their parents - often a dubious model! The very name for a serious gay relationship is ambiguous.

Once having tasted it, we can

Continued on page 28

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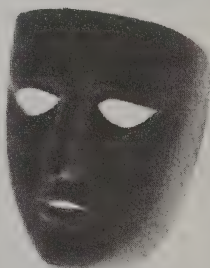
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# Trash?

Continued from page 27

never thereafter get enough of that wonderful stuff. So grab it while the getting is good. You're entitled to anything you can get your hands on. Spread your wings. Do your thing. Nobody's going to want you when you're forty.

As usual, the trendy fag is in the forefront. Threesomes, orgies, Mazola parties, water sports, not to mention, old-fashioned cock-sucking, were all familiar sacraments in the gay liturgy long before they were picked up and adopted by swinging straights. Are our noblest baffles fought on behalf of male frontal nudity, cologne for men and the right of every

man to his own hair dryer? Was faggotry's finest hour to have pioneered amyl nitrate therapy? Are we the great exponents of sex-without-guilt because we're lucky enough not to get pregnant and because we traditionally feel no commitment or sense of obligation toward our partners?

Left to their own devices (and inclinations) for too long, queers have settled for the lowest and worst possible common denominator - the crotch. The gay media have been no help in lifting our preoccupied gaze from below the navel. Laden with cock, trinkets and trivia, the fag rags pander to our basest proclivities. How can drop-dead rip-stop nylon

jumpsuits, His and His trick towels, apres-sauna kaftans and prolong erection cream avail the disaffected? Would homosexuals, one wonders, act any differently if they had dependents to support? Or a mate who could sue them for half their assets if they were caught with their pants down? Or if, for every trick they discarded, they had to pay alimony? It certainly might encourage some to think twice before acting on a selfish and probably destructive impulse. It might even encourage others to reconsider the theories of planned sexual obsolescence and conspicuous sexual consumption that prevail thus far in gay relationships.

It might also suggest that, while gayness absolves its disciples from many of society's conventions, it isn't

a complete capitulation to permissiveness, nor is it an open invitation to boogie. If we don't know ourselves what our platform consists of, how can we ask anyone else to endorse it? It goes without saying that laws against homosexuality must be abolished. What can we do to end being condescended to? To stop being treated as second-class citizens? The only way is by making ourselves wholly admirable. And that means not just as good as straights, but a whole lot better.

The gay goal should be nothing less than a flash-forward to a picture of distressed and baffled parents. They are consoling one another on the discovery that one of their children is displaying heterosexual tendencies. But queens are



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not going to earn respect from the outside until they get their own act together and start treating one another with dignity. Until they stop being dizzy tarts and start setting one another some better examples. Stein and Toklas, Britten and Pears, where are our paradigms? Step forward the noble handful that have made a success of living together in harmony over the long haul! We salute you and would learn from you. Let's hear also from the school of happy bachelors. Will you share with us your winning living-alone-and-liking-it formulas? Someone tell us we're not all doomed to be terminal victims of Discomania, Cruiseophobia and Fuckaphilia. Let not the tombstone read, "Departed trick of Tom, Dick and Harry - Gone down for the last time!"

## Asia's Silence On Gays In Military Broken By Taiwan

Following an announcement by the Taiwanese Military that it would end a policy banning gays from guarding high level officials and government installations, scholars and military officials said the decision signaled a bold step for an Asian military force. The policy change was announced after a local newspaper revealed the discriminatory practice, prompting protest demonstrations in Taipei, the nation's capital.

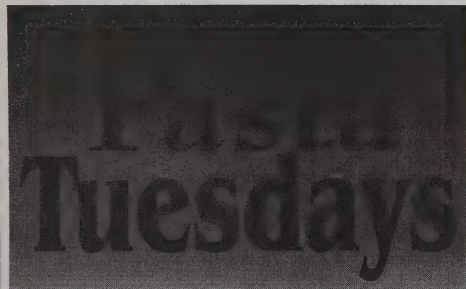
According to scholars, activists and sources familiar with military practices in China, Korea, Japan

and Taiwan, the status of gay soldiers in Asia has been largely unregulated due, in part, to a continued refusal to acknowledge the existence of homosexuality. "We never had a real discussion about this because we never heard about this kind of situation," said Lt. Col. Louis Liu, Assistant Naval Attach in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Washington. "We don't have a policy in writing." Col. Liu said that most gays in Taiwan remain closeted, "so if someone doesn't mention that [he is gay], no one knows except him." He added that, while sexual orientation may have been considered in promotional decisions in the past, he was not aware of anyone ever being discharged or prevented from serving because they were gay.

The announced modifications thus amounted to a new interpretation of "sexual orientation impairment" rather than an outright change in policy.

"Previously, gays were viewed as having a psychiatric illness," said a Colonel from the Ministry Of Defense who requested anonymity. "But since we have to consider human rights, we now think that gays, if they abide by military discipline and regulations, of course they can serve in the military." Yet Wang Ping, Secretary General of the Gender Sexuality Rights Association of Taiwan, said even the new policy is not that clear. "Now they will not not allow gay men," she said, "but that doesn't mean they will allow them."

Col. Liu of the Taiwanese Naval Attach said that ending the ban on gays in the military police was "a good thing for a democratic society like ours. I don't think this is really a big deal," he said. "It just means Taiwanese society is more open and there are different choices now. If you're gay and you can do the job, that's fine."



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- ▽ why am I so addicted, depressed, anxious?
- ▽ why can't I forget about, just get over ....
- ▽ am I a lesbian, gay, bi, transgendered?
- ▽ why do I keep ending relationships with violence ?
  - ▽ how can I survive my teenagers?
  - ▽ am I normal ?

**ELIZABETH MASSIAH, M.S.W., R.S.W.**  
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*Yea, well thanks for the support.*

Part 4 of

"

## I Care...Do you?"

HIV Edmonton

*A bit of an explanation on where these articles are going may be in order, to put the arguments into some perspective. Several assertions are being made in this series of articles that may*

*seem generalized and out of hand. That may be, but for reference purposes, there are several sources to back these assertions. The objective is to spark a community driven discussion around some of the issues impacting the health and wellness of gay/bi/MSM men and the ultimate affect on behaviors that lead to risk of HIV transmission. Because of the limitations of space, only examples of conditions related to the various determinants are cited. There are many, many more considerations that need to be acknowledged. Also, there is a tendency for these issues or determinants to interweave themselves around one another. The important thing about the determinants of health is that they don't stand alone; they do interact and apply*

*to each other in a variety of ways. So, it is likely that this overview will continue to repeat itself in some areas.*

Before we get underway, two corrections should be made to the last article. Marc Hall, the 17 year old who was not allowed to take his boyfriend to the prom is from Oshawa not Ottawa. As an update, Marc has taken the principal and the Catholic school board to court over the issue and won. The article also stated, "all gay and lesbian youth have an above average incidence of alcohol and substance use"; that statement is not accurate. Not all LGBT youth are faced with addiction issues, but it can be said that a larger than average number of these youth do use substances as a coping mechanism to combat the loneliness and isolation

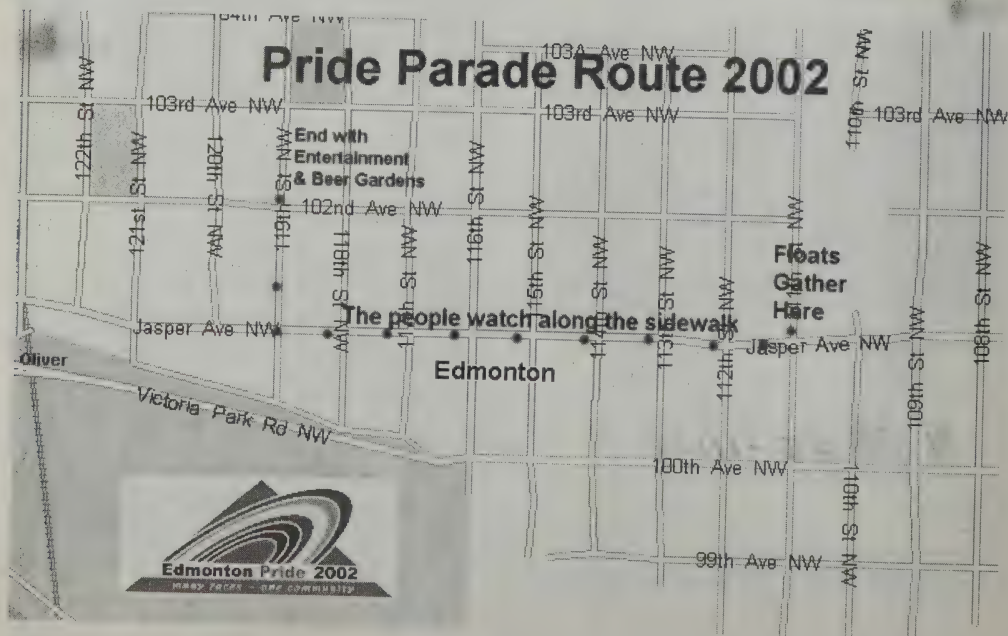
in their lives.

To date we have touched on (literally) **Income and Social Status, Conditions that Affect Coming Out, Education and Healthy Child/Adolescent Development**. This month we are going to take a look at **Culture and Social Support Networks**.

### Culture

Culture has a fundamental impact on Canadian Society generally. The dictates or tenets of various cultures determine the role the members within these cultural groups are allowed/permitted and in the case of a "closeted" lifestyle, forced to play. What will be discussed here will not be the traditional elements of culture normally associated

Continued on page 36



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# You and Your Funny Bone..:)

## What About Pete?

Two guys sat down for lunch in the office cafeteria. "Hey, whatever happened to Pete in payroll?" one asked. "He got this crazy idea he was going to build a new kind of car," his coworker replied. "He took an engine from a Pontiac, tires from a Chevy, seats from a Lincoln, hubcaps from a Caddy and well, you get the idea." "So what did he end up with?" "Ten years."

## Quick Note

I stepped into the restroom at our company headquarters and found this handwritten sign posted over one of those hot air hand dryers... "Please push button and listen for a short message from the President."

## Family Vacation

The telephone rings in the principal's office at a school. "Hello, this is Dunn Elementary," answers the principal. "Hi. Jimmy won't be able to come to school all next week," replies the voice. "Well, what seems to be the problem with him?" "We are all going on a family vacation," says the voice, "I hope it is all right." "I guess that would be fine," says the principal. "May I ask who is calling?"

"Sure. This is my father!"

## Six Pack

Steve, Bob, and Jeff were working on a very high scaffolding. Suddenly, Steve falls 50 feet to the ground below and he is killed instantly. After the coroner leaves with Steve's body, Bob volunteers to inform Steve's wife of the terrible news. Some two hours later, Bob returns to the work site with a six-pack of beer under his

arms. "Say, Bob, where did you get the six-pack?" "Steve's wife gave it to me!" "What! You just told her that Steve died and she gave you a six-pack?"

"Well, before I broke the news to her, I asked her if she was Steve's widow. And, she said she wasn't, so I said I'd bet her a six-pack she was!" A guy is standing at a urinal when he notices that he's being watched by a midget. Although the little fellow is staring at him intently, the guy thinks nothing of it.

## Careful

A midget drags a small stepladder next to the urinal. He then proceeds to admire the man's privates at close range from atop the stepladder. "Wow," comments the midget, "Those are the nicest testicles I've ever seen!" Surprised—and flattered—the man thanks the midget and starts to zip up. "Listen, I know this is a rather strange request," says the little fellow, "but would mind if I touched them?" Again, the man is rather startled, but sees no real harm so he obliges...

The midget reaches out and gets a tight grip on the man's privates, then says, "Okay, mister, hand me your wallet or I'll jump off the ladder!"

## Sayings

1. Birds of a feather flock together and then crap on your car.
2. There is always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles do not hurt.
3. When I am feeling down, I like to whistle. It makes the neighbor's dog run to the end of his chain and gag

himself.

4. If you cannot be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
5. Don't assume malice for what stupidity can explain.
6. A penny saved is a government oversight.
7. The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
8. The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.
9. The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
10. If you think there is good in everybody, you have not met everybody.
11. If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
12. The mind is like a parachute; it works much better, when it is open.
13. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth!

## From the Sandbox

A little boy and girl are playing in a sandbox. The little boy has to go to take a pee and he was told by his mother to always be polite and don't talk about private matters in public. At first he holds it in for a little while because he does not know what to say to the little girl to excuse himself. Then he remembers what his Mom had said at the restaurant to excuse herself from the table. So he turns to the little girl and says "Will you excuse me I have to go powder my nose". And saying that he leaps out of the sandbox and runs to the washroom.

When he comes back the little girl looks up at him and asks "Did you

powder your nose?" "Yes" said the little boy stepping back into the sandbox. "Well then" says the little girl, "You'd better close your purse because your lipstick is hanging out."

#### Growing Up

Three little boys were sitting on a park bench talking about what they wanted to be when they grew up. The first little boy said that he wanted to be a doctor, because they make people well and make lots of money (he points to a Car) to buy that Cadillac over there. The second little boy speaks up and says...well I want to be a Lawyer, because they help people out of trouble and they make lots of money (he points to a car) to buy that Lincoln over there. Well I

want to have hair all over my body says the third little boy. The other boys look at him like he is crazy and asks him why? He says: "my sister only has a small patch of hair and she owns that Lincoln and that Cadillac!!"

#### What NOT to name your dog.

Everybody who has a dog calls him Rover or Boy. I named mine Sex. It was a mistake because Sex has been very embarrassing to me. When I went to City Hall to renew his dog license, I told the clerk I would like to have a license for Sex. He said, "I'd like to have one too!" Then I said, "But this is a dog." He said he didn't care what she

looked like. Then I said, "But you don't understand. I've had Sex since I was nine years old." He said I must have been quite a kid. When I got married and went on my honeymoon, I took the dog with me. I told the motel clerk that I wanted a room for my wife and me and a special room for Sex. He told me every room in the place was for sex. I said, "But you don't understand. Sex keeps me awake at night." He replied, "Me too." One day I entered Sex in a contest, but before the competition began, the dog ran away. Another contestant asked me why I was just standing there looking around. I told him that I had planned to have

Sex in the contest. He told me I should have sold my own tickets. "But you don't understand," I said. "I had hoped to have Sex on TV." He called me a show off.

When my wife and I separated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. I said, "Your Honor, I had sex before I was married." The judge said, "Me too." Then I told him that after I was married, Sex left me. He said, "Me too." Last night, Sex ran off again. I spent hours looking around town for him. A cop came over to me and asked, "What are you doing in this alley at 4 o'clock in the morning?" I said, "I'm looking for Sex."

My case comes up Friday.

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# My Monthly Neurosis

Rob Browatzke



## Break-Ups Are Not Fun

Break-ups are not fun. I'm sure everyone would pretty much agree with me on that. As I re-read a few past articles in anticipation of writing this one, I realized that while I'd written often on the twists and turns of relationship-starting, I'd rarely touched upon the opposite end of the scale. So here's a happy dose of boyfriend-meltdown to get you in the mood for

Pride.

When is it time to end it? You've been with the guy for a while now and things that were fantastic are becoming mundane, if not downright annoying. Having to spice up a relationship, while very possible, does indicate that things are pretty bland. Of course that initial spark can't last forever, but sometimes, it doesn't ignite the blaze you need for things to last.

Maybe it's the turning 25 and forever-bidding adieu to twinkdom, but nothing lasts forever. While a dear ex of mine would reply to that with "forever is nothing", forever does seem to be what most people are looking for: that amazing fairy-tale love that only gets better with time. Most of us are not Cinderella enough to ever find that Charming a prince though, and so there we are. The infatuation is long over. What might have been, maybe even was love just doesn't seem like it's strong enough to get you through it anymore, and you realize it's over.

I am probably the world's worst break-upper, so I won't bother with advice on the "how to" aspect. Usually, I've spent so much time second-guessing my own feelings that I eventually explode in a drunken orgasm of honesty and melodrama. That doesn't make it any easier, trust me. But when you realize that the center just

isn't holding anymore, you're faced with that choice. Do I do it? How do I do it? What will happen now?

Relationships are complicated things at the best of times, but there does come a point when things are just too complicated. The chain of indiscretions becomes too long, or the partying becomes too much to cope with, or you wake up one morning and just realize you've fallen out of love. That last one, that's a toughie. It's not like falling in. It doesn't have the magic, the excitement, the swift sudden drop. It's a slow and excruciating time of self-awareness. Basically, it's a bitch.

I've learned not to let yourself feel bad for feeling what you feel. You can't control emotion, just action. There are a lot of petty thoughts that can creep into a break-up situation: money, mutual friends, sex. I think the brain realizes that debating over who gets the cat is easier to handle than sifting through the emotional residue. Of course, can you really trust a brain that can list dozens of reasons to end

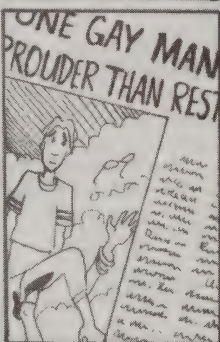
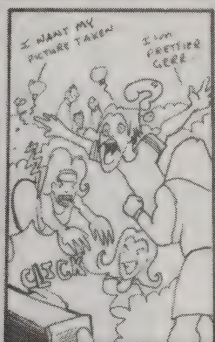
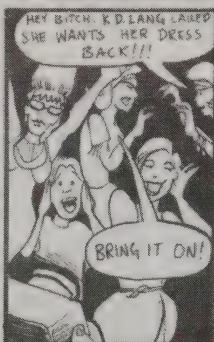
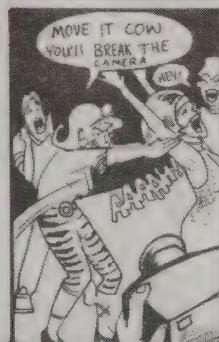
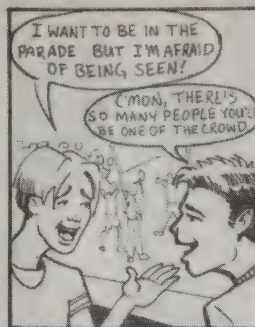
it while at the same time telling you dozens more to stay together? The brain's almost as trustworthy as a heart that doesn't know what it wants, much less from who.

The intensity of the moment isn't always proportional to the length of the relationship. Sometimes, a short-term fling can have a nasty end, perhaps because emotions are just generally more intense. Likewise, longer-term connections can end peacefully and mutually. Either way, something is lost. A part of your life that has been so incredibly significant is gone, and while yes of course you have the memories and while yes of course you might stay friends, what's facing you now can be even rougher than the decision to leave. How can you find the strength to go on? And where are you going anyway?

The whole thing is moot anyway. Given all the ups and downs and crazy ironic turns in life, chances are you put yourself through sheer hell just to get back together in the end anyway.



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## I Care.. Do You Part IV

### Continued from page 30

with minority ethnic, cultural and racialized population groups, but elements of queer culture that have evolved because of other more general cultural sanctions.

A sub-cultural group of gay culture and one that has developed from elements of the "culture of heterosexism" and discrimination is the gay/bisexual/MSM men's sexual culture. Sex clubs in the US, bathhouses, peep shows, public sex environments and even dance clubs to some extent are part of the gay/bi/MSM sex culture. These clubs and environments were often the only game in town. Today, in the aftermath of much negativity around gay/bi/MSM sexuality and sexual behavior that is the perpetual hang-over of the HIV "epidemic" years; we still haven't dealt with effective messaging that offers men options while living within these cultural dynamics.

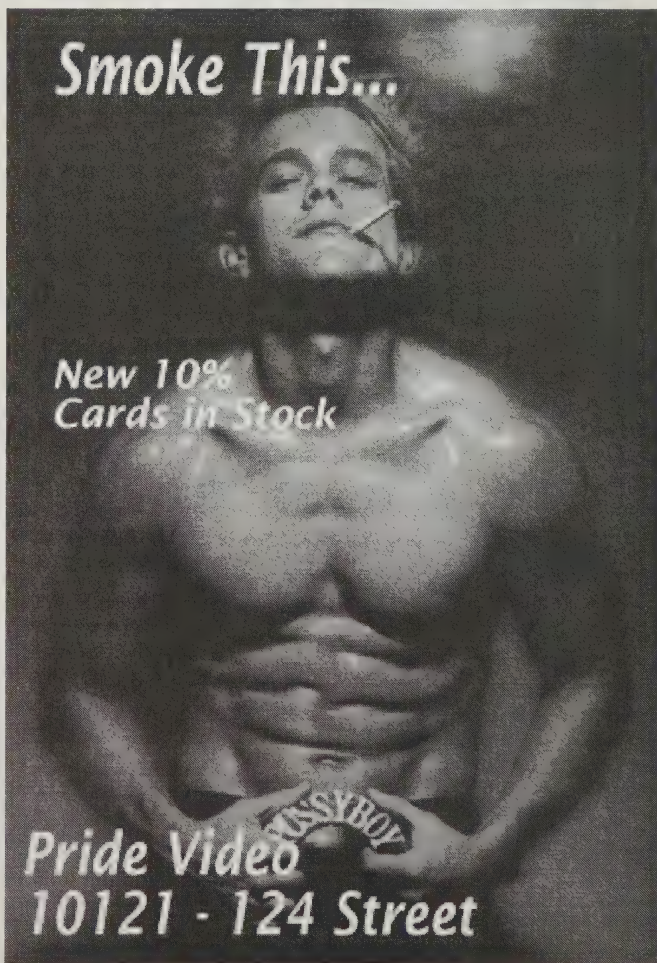
### Social Supports

In the blink of an eye, gay/bisexual men can have their whole world turned upside down and the foundations literally ripped from under them. Why? Because they disclosed/confided/affirmed that they do not fit the "traditional" mold of a male within a family structure. Hence, the developmental process often becomes self-reliant mixed liberally with a "don't give a damn" attitude that leads many further away from accessing services and supports that are taken for granted by the majority of the general populations. When there has been a break down in supports, youth and adults tend to dive headlong into behaviors that, for the most part, are crutches or a means of diminishing the hurt and loneliness of rejection like substance use/abuse and/or sexual promiscuity.

As discussed in the previous articles, gay and lesbian youth develop without peer support or role models. In truth, no matter at what age one faces their true sexual identity; they are faced with the same losses in supports. For example, a common stigma as we develop relationships is the lack of credibility given a long-term gay male "marriage".

And, it is a marriage in every aspect of the word, excepting when defined by the religious right who see marriage as a heterosexual institution exclusively. Often families do not recognize the partner of their son, father, grandfather, uncle, nephew, etc. as a legitimate spouse, which can have far reaching affects when illness or death enters the picture. If there is a dispute over a will, it is not the male partner that gets the benefit of the doubt, at least outside the law. Small steps are being taken in Alberta thanks to the courts but the road remains long and arduous. An individual and a community without support networks wanders aimlessly and

flounders. Without affirmation in our daily lives we tend to think ourselves valueless and beyond consideration. Do you know anyone who is constantly saying, "I'm sorry", or "really don't bother with me" or statements to that effect? These statements reflect a level of self-esteem that apologies for actually being alive, for imposing themselves on others, for being a bother. This is what happens when support networks are withdrawn or withheld. This is what happens when a community constantly faces the stigma of discrimination and homophobia. This is what happens when "we just aren't good enough".



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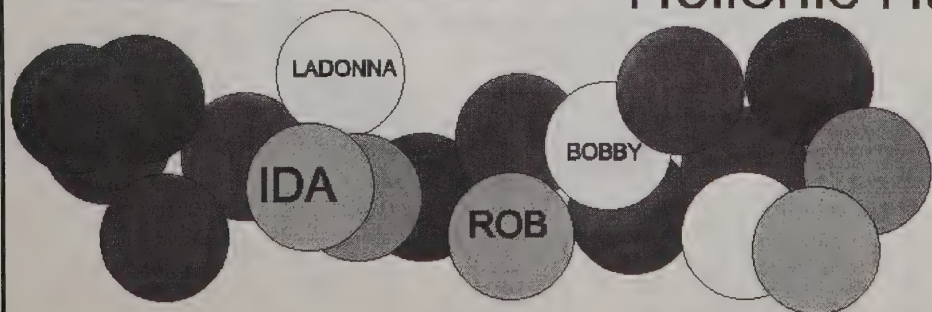
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# PBS's 'Commanding' Conflict of Interest

Enron & other corporate giants sponsored new globalization series

In the latest example of PBS's inconsistently applied underwriting

guidelines, the network is premiering a six-hour series about the global economy which was sponsored by major corporations—including Enron—that have a clear interest in the show's content.

Titled "Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy," the series is based on the eponymous book by Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw. It has already received a rave review from the Wall Street Journal (3/28/02) under the headline "PBS Likes Capitalism More Than the Commercial Networks Do," in which it hailed the series as a "paean to private enterprise."

Corporate funders of "Commanding Heights" include the Electronic Data Systems Corporation (which bills itself as "the leading global information technology services company"), BP (formerly British Petroleum, one of the world's largest oil companies) and FedEx—all firms with a major stake in the debate over the future of the global economy.

Enron no longer appears on lists of the show's funders, but the Boston Globe (1/23/02) has reported that Enron was one of the series' original underwriters, providing backing that might have

been "in the six figures." Since Enron's scandalous collapse, PBS has downplayed the Enron link, calling it "a distraction." In January, after more than two years of work on the series and just three months before its debut, Yergin told the Globe that "preliminary discussions" had been undertaken to find a replacement underwriter.

This isn't the first time that PBS has distributed a show with a funding-related conflict of interest. Nor is it the first time that Yergin has been involved. Over the years, FAIR has found that PBS scrutinizes the underwriters of certain documentaries with more

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vigilance than it does others. Shows produced or funded by "interest groups" like unions and public interest activists have been rejected by PBS as compromised by these connections, while programs funded by corporate or conservative interests are A-OK. Here are a few examples of that trend:

**DISTRIBUTED BY PBS:**

\* The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and

Power, a 1993 series funded by PaineWebber, a company with significant oil interests. The series' main analyst was Daniel Yergin, a consultant to major oil companies. Almost every expert featured was a defender of the oil industry.

\* Living Against the Odds, a 1991 special on risk assessment that asserted, "We have to stop pointing the finger at industry for every environmental hazard." Funded by Chevron, a petrochemical company often criticized for environmental pollution.

\* James Reston: The Man Millions

Read, a flattering documentary about the New York Times' most famous pundit. The film was funded by and produced "in association with" the New York Times. The director and producer, Susan Dryfoos, is part of the Sulzberger family that owns the paper, and is the daughter of a former Times publisher.

**REJECTED BY PBS:**

\* Out At Work, a 1997 film about workplace discrimination against gays and lesbians. Why? It was partially funded by unions and a lesbian group. PBS acknowledged that the underwriters had clearly not controlled the program's content, and that it was "compelling television responsibly done," but still refused to distribute it.

\* Defending Our Lives, a 1993 Academy Award-winning documentary about domestic violence. Why? One of the producers was the leader of a battered women's support group, and PBS felt that gave her a "direct vested interest in the subject matter of the program."

\* The Money Lenders, a 1993 film about the World Bank. Why? PBS was concerned that "Even though the documentary may seem objective to some, there is a perception of bias in favor of poor people who claim to be adversely affected."

According to the "Commanding Heights" trailer—which, though it doesn't disclose the show's underwriters, does feature footage of FedEx airplanes—the show aims to tell "the story of the battle between the power of governments and the power of the marketplace over which will control the commanding heights of the world's economies."

It's unfortunate that public television is presenting viewers with a report on the struggle over globalization that's been bankrolled by some of the key players from one side of the debate.

(FAIR produces CounterSpin, a weekly radio show heard on over 130 stations in the U.S. and Canada. To find the CounterSpin station nearest you, visit <http://www.fair.org/counterspin/stations.html>)



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# Fun Times



## The taking of Mr. & Mz. Buddys



# Talking G8 The Travelling Roadshow

At the end of June, the leaders of the eight most powerful countries in the world will meet behind closed doors in Kananaskis Village for the 2002 G8 Summit. The G8 controls the most powerful institutions in the world, from the World Bank to the WTO, and decisions made at the annual meeting impact people all around the world. Talking G8: The Travelling Roadshow is visiting 11 communities in Alberta

to educate people about the G8, globalization, and the alternatives. Come learn more about the G8 when they arrive in Alberta!

## Speakers:

Sarah Kerr is a Calgary-based activist and educator who is deeply involved in the preparations for the events surrounding the G8 Summit in Kananaskis in June 2002. Sarah has a Masters Degree in Community Organizing and Environmental Education and currently co-instructs a graduate seminar in Sustainable Community Development in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. She has taught Community Development in the Northern Land Management Program

of Olds College and does freelance work for CBC Radio.

Pamela Foster is the Coordinator of the Halifax Initiative. The Halifax Initiative is a Canadian coalition of development, environment, labour and human rights groups that campaigns for the transformation of the international financial system and its institutions to achieve poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and an equitable redistribution of wealth. Pam's work includes policy-maker advocacy, outreach, education and alliance building. Pam has worked as a campaigner for Friends of the Earth, a consultant for the UNEP in Paris and

Environment Canada, and most recently as Programme Manager for Canada's largest aid Project in Sri Lanka for South Asia Partnership.

Talking G8: The Travelling Roadshow is a project of the Parkland Institute and the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. For more information about the Roadshow, visit [www.web.ca/acgc](http://www.web.ca/acgc).

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

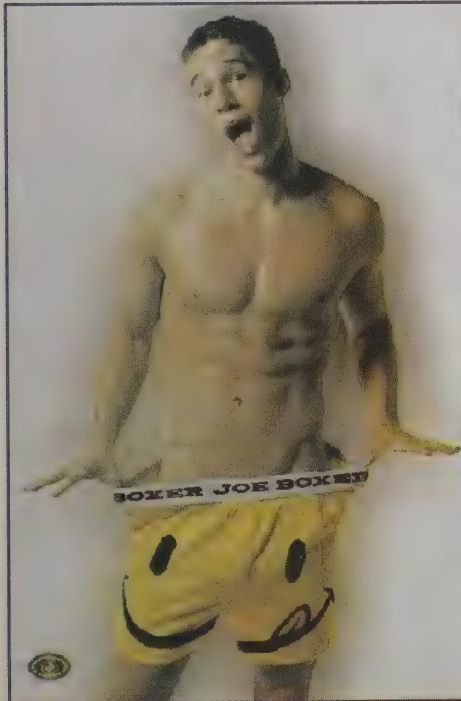
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# Speaking of Normal

*By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW  
Clinical Social Worker  
And Gordon Portman, award-winning  
playwrite*

My Pride 2002 column has been brewing for a bit—and not getting very far. It was feeling sort of stale—Pride week again. That astonished me, the feminist lesbian social activist... not knowing what to say that I have not said before.

Then on my way this morning to a conference on medical and health related ethics, on the radio—some of my ‘coming out music’—the music I revelled in at the Robin’s Nest in Cambridge, Ontario as I discovered me—the real me. The one who when she first saw lesbian couples dancing, thought “of course, that is how it should be”... and then remembered that I was a “happily married heterosexual woman”... oh well. And the music (Working my way back to you, babe) transported me to a dance floor and a sense of completeness. Of huge energy and of suddenly making sense to me. For the first time in thirty or so years, I “got it”.

And I remembered the current clients struggling with sexuality, with wholeness, fear and shame. And of how every year in the Pride parade I march with former or current clients, celebrating our sense of ourselves as just fine.

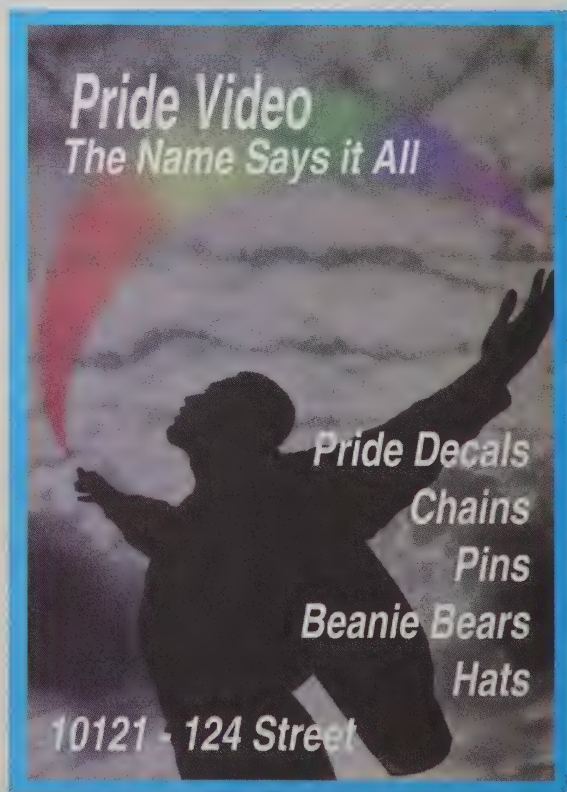
On that current of memory, I made my way into the conference. One of the keynote speakers was Laurie Zoloth, a Jewish woman. She is a professor of Ethics and Jewish Studies at a university in San Francisco.

She spoke of the anti-Semitism that is so strong in America following 9/11. It seems that somehow many Americans figure that since America supports Israel, and the Arabs don’t like that, that is why 9/11 happened and so it’s the Jews fault. Seems these folks would flunk Logic 101 but the hatred is real. She spoke of writing a letter to her Dean about the hatred on the campus at which she teaches, and how that got sent to 40 people and how they sent it on and on... so her narrative reached thousands. Basically she spoke of the need to speak, to speak out and to tell the narrative, to help shape

the story by speaking it.

The thrust of her speech seemed to me about speaking up, about taking the chance. At times, to my surprise, I was tearful, thinking of the chances we have taken, the times we have spoken up, the times of taking the risk... and in the end of being heard.

Then, the conference moderator, Anne Petrie, host of CBC’s The Moral Divide, told us that some of what Laurie was speaking of was written up in the Israeli press, but not in North America. And how her partner had noticed the



article and how she had thought it odd that it had not been part of our press.

And then a couple of weeks later, there she was, moderating this conference, having breakfast with the guest speakers and realizing that Laurie was the source of the story. And suddenly realizing the power of the press to speak and to not speak. And deciding that she would follow up the story, to spread the narrative. And that not speaking is as powerful as speaking.

My thoughts went to the Gay Games, and the minimal coverage we receive. Laurie went on to talk about being

afraid to speak at times, for fear of being labelled, "the mad woman in the attic" and thus dismissed. And of her struggles with being a "good Jewish girl and being nice" and also needing to speak.

Another speaker, Laura Shanner spoke of the need to be a 'hero of ethics', to stand for something important on a day to day basis. To pay attention to the housekeeping aspect of integrity and ethics. This made me remember Del Martin an out dyke years ago, who was on the city council in San Francisco. She commented that the most important thing she did was just to 'be there'. To daily represent a position of

respect...that was the most important thing she accomplished by being at meetings.

Later in the morning I was fascinated by the white, male, heterosexual (self proclaimed, indirectly), also expert, who commented that he was not so concerned about the heroic work of ethics as in working towards a minimally respectful society.

And there it was... the position of privilege speaking. And not realizing it in his guts. The two women being criticized very politely by the male, for being "the mad woman

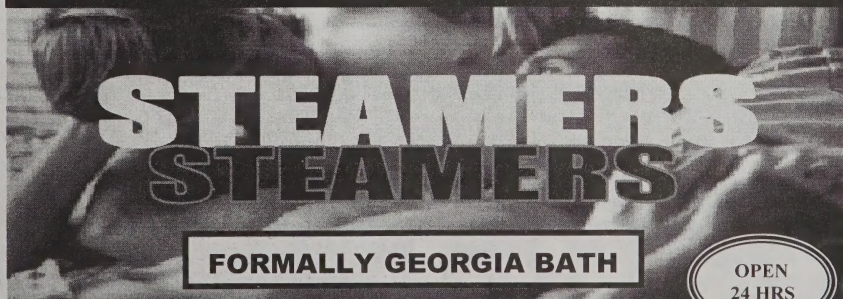
in the attic".

And so, again, the reminder to keep speaking, to keep working to tell our story, to ferret out the secrets and the shamers, to be publicly and privately consistent. Integrity to me is about consistency, being diligent about being congruent in thought and deed. Go for it...lets all be the "mad women in the attic", proclaim our sense of self, and keep doing it...See you at the Pride parade.

*(Opinions in this column are those of the authors alone. They are not meant to replace consultation with an accountable professional psychotherapist. Any client related information is altered to protect identities.)*

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### romance

Box 1863: I'm really fun to be around, and my mother said she loves me and you should too. I love shooting the shit, listening to tunes, making people laugh and goofing around, and anything mentally designed. I'm not a pecker, don't drink, don't smoke, go to church and pray. I'd like to know who you are. My dogs, discarding, re-creating, thinking about what to do with my life, and why I'm trying to meet him through this thing. I'm not into this for sex, I'm into this for a good time and a long time. I want mature, caring, funny, attractive, independent, stable, secure, smart, affectionate, social, mostly active, accepting, honest, clean, healthy, and mentally sound with a good heart. And about a billion other things.

Box 1901: I'm Dave, 23, white, gay male, 5'10", 120lb, slim build, brown hair and eyes, I've lived in the city over a year now so I'm looking to meet people and maybe that special someone. I'm a big-hearted romantic, interests include working, reading, movies, going out, music, shopping, writing, going to clubs, and hanging at home. I'm looking for a relationship that could lead to long term, and also friendships. My ideal guy would be: white, black or Hispanic; gay men, 22-30, 6' or taller, slim to medium muscular build, should be out and openly gay. I'm not looking for guys looking for Edmonton, guys who will try to change me, I'm female acting, and my guy would also be open minded, caring and honest, and not looking for just a good time.

Box 2049: I'm Ryan, attractive, 38, professional, white, 6' 2", 250lb, brown hair with blonde streaks, blue eyes and masculine. Looking

out the after hours scene this summer. If you are really clever, witty, and well read, that would be a great bonus.

Box 2443: I'm 40, olive toned skin, 5'9", 180lb, I have thick dark short hair and brown eyes. Looking for friends to hang out with, and if it turns into something else than that's a good thing. I'm not into casual sex, and I'm looking for someone fun and sincere, caring, trustworthy and who has values.

### phone buddies

Box 1309: I'm looking for guys who like to talk to tell me hot or taboo stories. I get off on listening to other people's experiences. Leave your phone number.

### transsexual & transgender relationships

Box 2154: I'm great looking, 40, work out 3 times a week, my hobbies are mountain biking and riding my Harley. I'm looking for a transgendered person who is looking for a great lover and someone to be a friend with.

### one night stands

Box 1716: Horny bi guy calling from out of town, an hour and a half out of Edmonton, 5'10", 160lb, 7" cut, good looking, good shape, and looking to get into some action.

Box 1919: I'm Mahoney, 30, 5'10", Spanish male, bottom seeking tip. I love to suck and get my ass fucked.

Box 1941: I'm a good-looking bottom looking for a top. I'm willing to travel, very clean and discreet. I have a nice bubble but that loves to be fucked. I love to have my butt stretched and fucked really hard. I'll suck your cock.

Box 2110: I'm 18, very horny, and very open minded. Also very kinky. I enjoy spending time with older open-minded males.

Box 2131: I'm new to Edmonton and looking for some hot tops. I'm 6'2", 250lb, fat, and very fit. I'm looking for someone 35-50 for hot action. I have a short slim beard, passionate, clean and discreet.

Box 2146: Farmer here, looking for casual encounters on a regular basis. I'm feeling really horny, wife's away, and I would like a young man to spend the time with me.

### group scenes & public sex

Box 1153: I'm a bi male, 6', almost hairless body, I am a very submissive bottom, and would really like to service a group. I'd really like to get gangbanged. Nothing religious, just to satisfy and please. Like more than one.

Box 2124: I'm a 42 year old male, weight 3 times a week, keep myself in great shape, 5'9", 160lb, and I'm looking for another couple or a transgendered person who would just like to have some good times. Extremely well-kung, very affectionate, great lover, and would just like to have some good times with some good people.

### total tops

Box 2270: I'm a well-endowed top guy here, 32" waist, 27" arms, 7" 1/2" cut, nice light, hard body, looking to hook up with someone that needs to be fucked.

### submissive bottom

Box 2073: I'm a bisexual, 38 years old, 6' tall, 160lb, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, considered attractive. I've got a shaved 6" cock. I like to suck and be fucked. I love to be a bottom, but I don't like to be a top. I'm willing to do anything and everything I can entertain, and I'm very very discreet, and respect the same. Looking for any age, over 18.

Box 2132: I'm new to Edmonton, and I'm looking for some hot tops to play with, I'm 6' tall, 29" waist, 7" cut, nice light, very hot mouth, and love to get down, and dirty with another top, 35-50.

Box 2252: I'm 36, about 5'10", 200lb, short dark hair. I would really like to find somebody who is well-kung, would be interested in getting together on a regular basis. I'm a novice submissive, but I'm very willing to learn, very eager to learn.

Box 2445: I'm always wanted, and I've been with males before, but I just don't know. I have fantasies, and I'm looking for a very submissive, willing to try anything with the right, older male, 45-55, I'm sure you will enjoy me, I'm disinte-

ly positive. I will be out there to please, and I'm acting to try it again. I save miss. I dream about it, and fantasize about it all the time. And masturbate at the time thinking about it. I hope these members out there in the right category. I'm looking for later times, well-kung if that's possible, but not too hot. That's possible too.

### first-timers & bi guys

Box 2011: I'm a bi male, 48, 5'11", 200lb, 6-1/2" cut. I'm a very horny bottom, experienced, love having my teeth on the butt, 7-1/2" or more. You can entertain, and want to have a good time. I'm looking to meet someone who wants to meet on sort of a semi-regular basis. I'm versatile, can be top or bottom, but prefer the bottom. Love to give and receive head, and I like to say, I've taken it up the butt, as long as it's safe and discreet.

Box 2163: I'm Sheldon, 5'8", 155lb, 30" waist, 6-1/2" uncut cock, I have dark hair and a mustache. I'm bisexual. I'm looking for another bisexual partner in the Edmonton area, that's in a relationship with a female. I am attached, and I'm looking for a bisexual partner for casual encounters, discretion is important. Cleanliness as well. I'm looking for a guy under 40, under 180lb, that's reasonably good-looking, and is interested in the same things I am.

Box 2432: I'm an attached of male, 6' 200lb, almost a hairless body. I'm a bottom, very submissive. I like to wear party hose, panties, play around. I like to do a bunch of cooking, satisfy and please somebody, and by sucking you off and playing around, during a little teasing, not expecting anything return. Just looking to have some good sex with somebody.

Box 2446: I'm a male in my 40s, have a testis of with giving a good hard job for gentlemen. If you like being led down, and you know, light bondage, and being given a hard job, and you're 18-21, slim, and love to be played with.

### bears & big men

Box 2285: I'm Jason, and I'm looking for any big men, that want a guy that's 215lb, who's got a little bit of tits. I don't know. I'm looking to suck a big hairy cock, and want some big cock in my life. If you have any friends, or group members that want to give it to me, I'm interested in that too. I'm looking forward to anybody that wants it.

### shemales & crossdressers

Box 1564: I enjoy the look and feel of lingerie. It not only makes me look sexy but it makes me feel sexy too. I'm looking for a somewhat dominant man that I can entertain, on a fairly regular basis, as I work mostly evenings, mornings and weekends work best for me. I live in the central West, and in my 40s, Asian looking, honest, clean, and very discreet. I'm affectionate, and enjoy playing as a shemale. Bye bye now.

Box 2197: I'm Maddy, I'm a 23 year old, 5'11", 130lb, light, toned, sexy, crossdresser. I love to wear panties, and nylons. I'm looking for an older man, who can entertain, maybe have me over for an evening, and have some fun. We can start off by watching a porno, and see where it goes from there. So you old gentlemen, who want a young hot, obedient, crossdressing male, who can dress and have fun with...

### women's ads

Box 2138: I'm Leslie, aged 33, 170lb, non-smoker, occasional drinker, 5'2", brown hair, eyes. My interests are meeting new people. I want to train in the day. Things I like to do are to go out there, night courses, and listen to music and dance. I also like going out for walks, shopping, going to the library, reading. Don't be shy.

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